10-20-10

One Sentence Summary:

In “Universal Design: The Work of Disability in an Age of Globalization”, Michael Davidson explains that disability is a matter of “global human rights” that is based on economic, political, and social issues not just medical and health care issues; he argues that landscape is a key part of defining disability and who a person is disabled.

Response:

Michael Davidson in “Universal Design: The Work of Disability in an Age of Globalization” provides a new perspective on disability while also reiterating some of the same views as Linton and Charlton. I feel that the article is unique because Davidson says disability is based medical issues but it also important to where a person is living. Davidson argues that landscape is key component of disability and I agree with his logic because disability in one country is completely different from disability in another country. However, the way that Davidson writes can be confusing, for example of page 134 he writes “We understand the ways that political violence and civil conflict create disability through warfare…”. My confusion is who is the “we” in that statement? Am I a part of the “we”? Does Davidson know I understand what he is saying? Before using the word “we”, an author should consider his or her audience and make sure they articulate who they are talking to as a collective. I could also use other author’s views to relate to Davidson, which made it easier to understand the article. Both Charlton and Linton describe disability in ways other than medical definitions, and Davidson continues this path by explaining universal design’s actual relation to reality.